

REMARKS

The Examiner sets forth on page 2 of the Office Action that the present invention can be divided into three separate patentably distinct groups: Group I, drawn a fuel cell having a porous water-absorbing tube and encompassing claims 1-8; Group II, drawn to a fuel cell stack having an inlet side communication hole, an outlet side communication hole, and a discharge hole provided at a deep portion, and encompassing claims-9-14; and Group III, drawn to a fuel cell stack which includes a suction member which is provided at the inside of the inlet side communication hole or the outlet side communication hole and which has an opening for sucking retained water, and encompassing claims 15-19. The Examiner states that the three Groups are distinct from one another as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship.

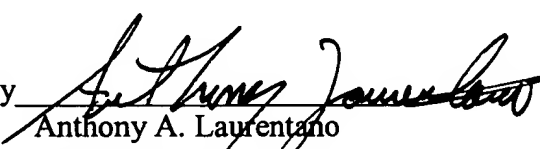
Applicants respectfully elect the Group II set of claims (e.g., claims 9-14) for further prosecution.

Applicants deem this Response to be fully responsive to the present Office Action. If further issues regarding the restriction persist, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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